

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.6% (3,206) reside in the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (609) of Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.4% of admissions from the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District were male and 24.5% were female.
- Over 65.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 66.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.9% were black non-Latino, 23.6% were Latino, and 2.2% were Asian and 3.9% were other racial categories.
- 66.4% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.7% were married, and 15.5% reported not to be married now.
- 39% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.9% completed high school, and 14.9% had more than high school education.
- 23.2% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 23.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

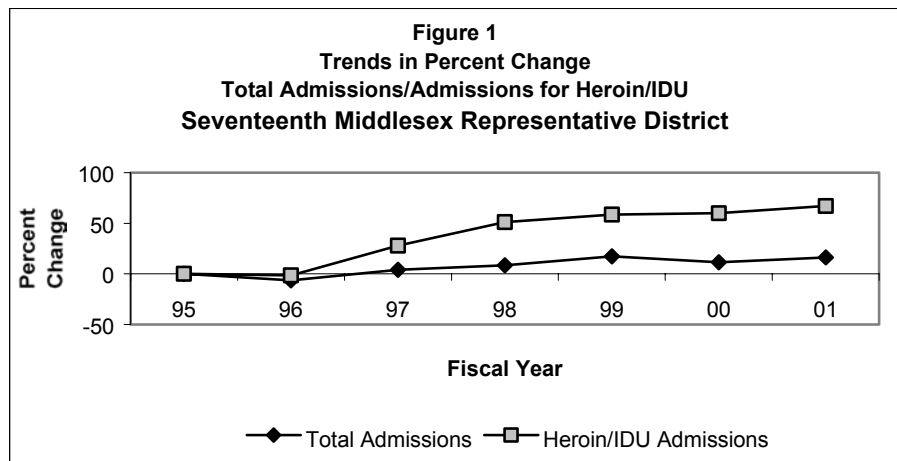
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,760	2,039	757	1,112	913	1,243	763
FY '96	2,584	2,006	701	941	733	1,197	779
FY '97	2,869	2,080	837	990	734	1,489	1,078
FY '98	2,996	2,059	825	962	576	1,782	1,249
FY '99	3,232	2,218	985	1,043	593	1,811	1,368
FY '00	3,072	2,032	855	984	472	1,794	1,415
FY '01	3,206	2,003	882	1,005	436	1,941	1,408

- Since FY 1995, residents of Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Heroin use increased by 56%, while crack use decreased by 52%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use increased by 16%, while alcohol use remained steady, and cocaine use decreased by 9%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 16.2% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 66.9%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Seventeenth Middlesex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	31.2%	56.0%	4.9%	3.4%	2.0%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, marijuana and crack was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000